

They vary much in form ; sometimes their bodies are elongated or cylindrical, with the tentacles hanging loosely around in graceful curves, and shortly after the Anemone may stand up a complete Briareus, with arms erect, spread out to search for prey ; then, if ever, it would be supposed most likely to sting, but my fingers have often been within its grasp without any such effect. At other times its body is shortened and thick, and the tentacles have undergone the same change. It has the power of wonderfully altering the size and shape of these. They vary in number, though always numerous, and the animal can turn and twist them in any direction. It often curls them round at the points like crooks, sometimes enlarges them like clubs : as in many of the Anemones, the mouth of the *Anthea* is sometimes pouted.

The usual colour of this Anemone, as found with us, is—body of a uniform brownish olive, with the tentacles of a grayish colour, having also a longitudinal lighter stripe along the upper surface ; sometimes, however, they assume a much gayer tint, and the brown hue of the body becomes more red, almost claret-colour, whilst the tentacles from gray are changed to emerald-green, and adorned with a bright ring of rose-colour at about half-way between their base and extremity.

It is difficult to account for the changes in the inhabitants of the rocks at very short distances of coast, and under apparently similar circumstances, but a very marked difference there decidedly is : this fact makes me, however, confident of fresh results from fresh researches. Mr. Gosse's book, and the works of other naturalists, prove indeed that there are many species yet unnoticed by us ; there are some probably as yet unseen by any one. I would hope, therefore, that at some future visit more may be done, especially along the limestone portion of the coast, as this was only examined at one spot (Meadfoot Sands, Torquay), and there but very imperfectly.

Dec. 16th, 1854.

VIII.—*On a Monstrous Oyster Shell*. By GEORGE BUSK, Esq.

[With a Plate.]

To the Editors of the Annals of Natural History.

GENTLEMEN,

Greenwich, July 31, 1854.

THE shell, of which the enclosed drawing (Pl. III. B. figs. 1 & 2. nat. size) will give some idea, was picked up, I believe, on the coast of Pembrokehire.

It appears to be a very anomalous production, and as I do not

myself understand how it has been formed, and cannot find any one who can tell me, I have thought a notice of it might interest some of your readers who may be better able to explain the matter.

Fig. 1 represents the outside, and fig. 2 the inside of the shell.

It is obviously a single valve of some bivalve shell, not unlike that of an Oyster, formed upon and partly made up by one valve of a *Pholas candida*.

There is a faint muscular impression about the middle of the concave part (*a*, fig. 1), and the hinge appears to be represented by a triangular depression, immediately within the beak (*b*, fig. 2).

The whole shell is of a light brownish colour, and the inner surface is perfectly smooth and continuous throughout. The outer surface of the *Pholas* valve is covered by a thin transparent coating—like varnish—of shelly matter, through which the worn (?) surface of the original valve is plainly seen.

I am, Gentlemen, yours obediently,

GEORGE BUSK.

IX.—On *Hypericum anglicum*. By CHARLES C. BABINGTON, M.A., F.R.S. &c.*

SINCE the publication of my remarks upon the supposed *Hypericum anglicum*, found near Cork by Dr. Balfour (Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist. Ser. 2. xi. 360; Edin. Bot. Soc. Trans. iv. 169), I have received additional information concerning it, and have also been favoured with a specimen of an *Hypericum* gathered upon the cliffs above Falmouth harbour in Cornwall, which agrees very exactly with Bertoloni's description of his *H. anglicum*. It appears therefore proper to publish the results of the further study which I have been led to give to the subject, more especially as my opinion has undergone a change.

In my former paper it was stated to be doubtful if the plant there called *H. anglicum* ought to be separated specifically from *H. hircinum*, and I am now strongly disposed to believe that they are indeed one species. At the time of that publication I had been led to suppose, that the plant found near Cork was wild there; but am now informed by Mr. Isaac Carroll of that city, that the station noticed by Dr. Balfour closely adjoins, and, indeed, one side of it forms the "boundary of Lota Wood, whence many half-naturalized species have been recorded by Dennis Murray, such as *Geranium phæum*, *Atropa Belladonna*, &c., plants by no means native there; and from this place," Mr. Carroll thinks that the *Hypericum* in question has migrated. It is

* Read before the Edinburgh Botanical Society, Dec. 14th, 1854.